



POLAROID'S BACK

First digital camera with built-in printer

BUSINESS > A8

New theory about what ails pelicans

Huge Northwest storm

NATION > A3



SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2009

CLOUDS AND FOG
High, 39. Low, 33.
> LOCAL B10

The Seattle Times



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FRIENDLESS IN SEATTLE

Others may look for love, but about 150 each day try a popular Web site for relief from our chilly social scene. For some, the "strictly platonic" adventure works out.



JOHN ROBERSON: *Underground Cartoonist New In Town: Seeking Friends* – 39 (Broadview)

"I'm new here, from Chicago (and 6 years ago, Berkeley). Of course I am; otherwise I'd know people and wouldn't be posting here, would I? I'm an underground cartoonist and writer, looking for some friends of similar mind to hang with, explore Seattle ..."

STORY BY ERIC LACITIS / *Seattle Times* staff reporter

PHOTOS BY THOMAS JAMES HURST / *The Seattle Times*

A Sunday night posting on Craigslist, in the "strictly platonic" section: "save me from boredom! — w4m — 25 (seattle)"

"Im just sitting around with my dog and a glass of wine ... ah hell a bottle of wine. Nothing is on TV. Would love to email/text whatever ..."

Sound familiar? Last year, more than two of every five houses, apartments and condos in Seattle were one-person households.

Certainly, a number of those are singles who would love to be in love, find a romantic relationship.

Meanwhile, it sure is nice to just have ... some friends. That's no easy task in Seattle, especially for newcomers.

There's a term for the city's standoffishness: "Seattle Freeze." Newcomers have said the people here are cold, distant and not trusting. They say Seattleites want you to "Have a nice day, somewhere else."

So how do you find friends? If you're willing to take a risk, there is Craigslist.

The risk is that even though you can post anonymously, Please see > "PLATONIC", A4



ANGHELA CHEGARNOV: *Need a friend!* – w4w – 21 (mill creek)

"Hi my name is Anghela, I am looking for a good friend. I didn't have a friend for a long time, I would really like one. Any friend would be nice. Even if you dont have a picture thats OK."

Doors close at UW

NO NEW STUDENTS THIS SPRING

Officials say budget cuts, overenrollment give them no choice — with a few exceptions

BY NICK PERRY
Seattle Times higher education reporter

The University of Washington has taken the drastic step of closing its doors to new students who want to start classes this spring.

The move, which applies only at the main Seattle campus, comes in response to budget cuts and overenrollment — both driven by an ailing economy. One group of students who won't be affected: athletes.

UW Admissions Director Philip Ballinger said he plans to send out about 325 letters next week to students who would have been accepted for the spring quarter under normal circumstances. Those letters will explain that they won't be admitted at this time.

The students essentially will be given three options: to keep their applications on ice for consideration in the fall; to attend the Bothell or Tacoma branch campuses, which are still accepting spring students; or to apply for a refund of their \$55 application fee.

An additional 200 to 250 students who Please see > **UW, A6**

Perfect ending on plane that became a boat

BY MICHAEL WILSON AND RUSS BUETTNER
The New York Times

NEW YORK — Some passengers screamed, others tucked their heads between their knees, and several prayed over and over, "Lord, forgive me for my sins." But a man named Josh sitting in the exit row did exactly what everyone is supposed to but few ever do: He pulled out the safety card and read the instructions on how to open the exit door.

US Airways Flight 1549 smacked the Hudson River the way a speedboat lands after jumping over a wake — with a thud that rattled teeth and nerves and stunned the cabin silent. It was as if everyone was waiting for someone else to shout in pain, and no one did.

Then Josh stood up. "Someone tried to pull the door in," another passenger recalled, "and he said, 'No, you've got to throw it out.' He twisted it and threw it out."

Thus began some of the most harrowing Please see > **PLANE, A5**

ENGINES fell off jet after crash > A4

SEA-TAC takes offense against birds > B1

Map or no map, L.A. socialite ready for Mongolian desert treasure hunt

CZAR'S CROWN JEWELS | Patte Barham says her late stepfather, a former Russian prince, handed her directions to a cache that he buried in 1917. She lost the envelope, but that won't stop her quest.

BY BOB POOL / *Los Angeles Times*

LOS ANGELES — She has navigated the world of Los Angeles' elite for eight decades — week-ending at Hearst Castle in San Simeon with William Randolph Hearst, riding horses with friends at her family ranch above the boulevard that bears her father's name, partying at gatherings from Newport Beach to Beverly Hills.

She also is a former war correspondent who filed reports from foxholes at Korea's infamous

Czar Nicholas II, depicted in a painting at left, was executed with family members in 1918, after the Bolsheviks seized power in Russia.



Skeptics take Barham's claim with a grain of salt.

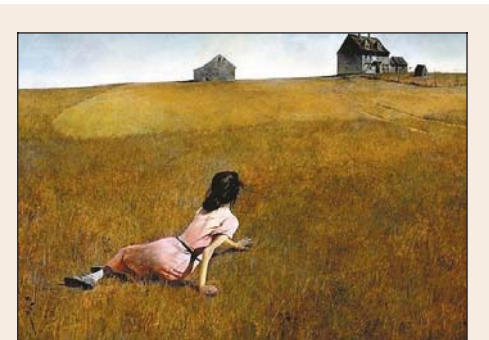
The diamonds, Fabergé eggs, imperial Russian crowns and tiaras, jewel-encrusted gold picture frames and opera-length strands of pearls, rubies, sapphires and diamonds are hidden in seven coffins in a hole 7 feet square and 10 feet deep in the middle of Mongolia's Gobi

Pork Chop Hill and is co-author of investigative books about the deaths of Marilyn Monroe and legendary Russian "mad monk" Grigori Rasputin.

Patte Barham said she's ready for her biggest challenge: uncovering the lost crown jewels of the czar of Russia.

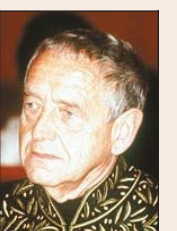
Some think the quest is as fanciful as the legend surrounding the artifacts, but Barham is having none of that.

Please see > **TREASURE, A6**



"Christina" artist dies

ANDREW WYETH'S painting was among most famous works of 20th century > A2



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